

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the helpful and courteous comments during the interview with the Examiner.

Claims 1, 28, 30 and 39 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1-4, 9-18, 28, 30-32, 36-41 and 43 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-4, 10-18, 28, 30-32, 36-41 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harlow in view of Brennan. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As mentioned in Applicant's previous response, neither Harlow or Brennan teach or suggest a telecommunication device capable of identifying a dialed telephone number associated with a call, using the dialed telephone number to retrieve a first telephone number, a second telephone number and at least one user preference from a storage medium, using the at least one retrieved user preference to route the call to at least two destination telephone number substantially simultaneously and then holding and authenticating an answered call before connecting the answered call.

In particular, neither Harlow or Brennan teach or suggest "[a] processor [that] holds and authenticates an answered call before connecting the answered call," as recited in claim 1. As stated by the Office Action, Harlow does not disclose, teach or suggest such a limitation. (Office Action at 2).

The Office Action seeks to cure the deficiencies of Harlow by combining Harlow with Brennan. However, Brennan also fails to teach or suggest "[a] processor [that] holds and authenticates an answered call before connecting the answered call." The architecture of Brennan relates to a single threaded switch call, meaning that when Brennan transfers a call to a remote device, the circuit from the calling party to the

called party is complete. Although, in Brennan the calling party cannot communicate with the called party until the system verifies that the caller is on the line, for purposes of the connection, the Brennan connection is complete.

Contrary to the system of Brennan, the claimed invention employs a multi-threaded architecture that does not connect the inbound call immediately to the remote devices. Rather, the claimed invention holds the call until the call is authenticated. In other words, the caller in the claimed invention is not connected to the remote device until the claimed invention electronically switches the calls together to form a single circuit. Therefore, the inventions of Harlow, Brennan and the present application are patentably distinct.

Moreover, the inventions of Harlow and Brennan are incapable of requiring an authentication before connecting the answered call. This is another reason why the claimed invention is allowable over the cited combination.

Thus, the cited references, whether considered alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the limitations of the claim 1 invention and would not render claim 1 obvious. Claims 2-4 and 10-18 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable along with claim 1.

Claim 28 recites , *inter alia*, a method of providing telecommunications to a user of a communication network comprising the steps of "routing a communication made to the extension to the connect unit; holding the routed communication in the connect unit until a connection has been made with the first communication device or the second communication device; . . . [and] routing the communication in accordance with the user preference to at least two destination communication numbers substantially simultaneously and connecting the routed communication when the

routed communication is authenticated.” As described above, the cited combination fails to disclose, teach or suggest such limitations. Applicant respectfully submitst that Harlow and Brennan, even when combined, do not teach or suggest having the ability to hold a routed communication and then connect the routed communication once the routed communication is authenticated.

In addition, claims 30-32 and 36-38 recite similar limitations. Claim 30 recites, *inter alia*, a method of providing telecommunications to a user of a communication network comprising the steps of “receiving a communication; holding the communication; . . . [and] determining if the communication has been answered while holding the communication; and if it has been determined that the communication has been answered, requesting information from a user before connecting the held communication.” For at least the reasons set forth above as well as others, Applicant believes claim 30 to be allowable over Harlow and Brennan. Claims 30, 32 and 36-38 depend from claim 30 and should be allowable along with claim 30.

Similarly, claim 39 recites, *inter alia*, an article of manufacture having a machine-readable storage medium having stored a control program including similar limitations as set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 39 is allowable over Harlow and Brennan. Claims 40, 41 and 43 depend from claim 39 and should be allowable along with claim 39 for at least the reasons set forth above.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Harlow and Brennan fail to teach or suggest the limitations of the claimed inventions. Nor would it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to combine the cited references to achieve the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 1-4, 10-18, 28, 30-32, 36-41 and 43 be allowed.

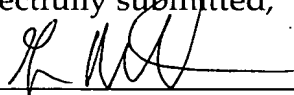
Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harlow in view of Brennan and further in view of Swan. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 depends from claim 1, and thus recites “[a] processor [that] holds and authenticates an answered call before connecting the answered call.” As demonstrated above, Harlow and Brennan do not teach or suggest “[a] processor [that] holds and authenticates an answered call before connecting the answered call,” as recited in claim 1. Swan is cited by the Office Action as teaching a caller of the telephone call was prompted with a menu of call destination options and the call is routed to at least one destination telephone number in accordance with an option selected by the caller. (Office Action at 5). Even assuming this statement to be correct, which Applicant does not concede, Swan does not teach or suggest “[a] processor [that] holds and authenticates an answered call before connecting the answered call.” Therefore, even adding the teachings of Swan to the Harlow and Brennan combination, the cited references fail to disclose, teach or suggest all limitations of the claim 9 invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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